

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

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TAGS: ECOSOC, SHUM, SGEN

SUBJ: 60TH ECOSOC--DECADE FOR ACTION TO COMBAT RACISM

REF: USUN 1769

1. SUMMARY. DURING APRIL 29 MEETING OF ECOSOC, THE DEBATE HEATED UP ON AGENDA ITEM 3, THE DECADE FOR ACTION TO COMBAT RACIAL DISCRIMINATION. REPS OF AFGHANISTAN, DEMOCRATIC YEMEN, ALGERIA, YEMEN, UK, BOLIVIA, ISRAEL, IRAQ AND THE PLO DELIVERED STATEMENTS ON THIS FINAL DAY OF CONSIDERATION OF THE ITEM. STATEMENTS OF ARAB DELS ALL INCLUDED STRONG REAFFIRMATION OF RES 3379 (EQUATING ZIONISM WITH RACISM) AND ACCUSED ISRAEL OF PRACTICING RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IN ITS TREATMENT OF PALESTINIANS AS WELL AS THROUGH REPUTED "ALLIANCE" WITH SOUTH AFRICA. SEVERAL DELS CRITICIZED US DEFINITION OF ZIONISM AS NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENT, AND MUCH WAS MADE OF THE VORSTER VISIT TO ISRAEL. ISRAELI AMB DELIVERED LONG, SHARP ATTACK ON RES 3379. UK REP CALMLY BUT FIRMLY RENEWED UK OPPOSITION TO THE RES. END SUMMARY.

2. DEMOCRATIC YEMEN. MAIN THEME OF DEMOCRATIC YEMEN
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STATEMENT WAS EQUATION OF GA RESOLUTIONS 3057 (WHICH

LAUNCHED DECADE FOR ACTION TO COMBAT RACISM) AND 3379 (EQUATING ZIONISM WITH RACISM). DEMOCRATIC YEMEN DEL ASSERTED THAT JUST AS NATIVE AFRICANS HAVE BEEN DENIED BASIC RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS IN THE RACIST REGIMES OF SOUTH AFRICA AND RHODESIA, SO ALSO HAVE PALESTINIANS SUFFERED LOSS OF HOMELAND AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN "OCCUPIED PALESTINE." THOSE WHO DEFINE ZIONISM AS A NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENT ERR, IT WAS ARGUED, SINCE, WHEN ZIONISM WAS FIRST FOUNDED, IT CALLED ITSELF "COLONIAL" AND ITS SETTLEMENTS "COLONIES" THUS OFFICIALLY RECOGNIZING THE TRUE NATURE OF THE MOVEMENT. WITH REGARD TO THE GHANA CONFERENCE, DEMOCRATIC YEMEN OFFERED FULL SUPPORT AND CONCLUDED THAT THE PROPOSAL FOR THE UN TO SHARE EXPENSES WAS "LOGICAL."

3. ALGERIA. AFTER DETAILED DENUNCIATION OF SOUTH AFRICA AND RHODESIAN "RACIST REGIMES," ALGERIAN DEL STATED THAT PALESTINE IS ANOTHER AREA OF THE WORLD WHERE RACIAL DISCRIMINATION CONTINUES. IN THIS AREA IT IS THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE WHO ARE THE VICTIMS OF A RACIAL SYSTEM BUILT ON ZIONISM, FOUNDED IN THE 19TH CENTURY, AND PERPETUATED THROUGH FORCE AND OPPRESSION. ALGERIAN DEL PRAISED GHANA CONFERENCE AND OFFERED ITS FULL SUPPORT.

4. UK. THE UK STATEMENT TRACED THE CURRENT INTERNATIONAL CONSENSUS TO ABOLISH RACIAL DISCRIMINATION TO TWO EARLIER HISTORICAL FORCES: FIRST, THE EUROPEAN EXPERIENCE WITH IDEOLOGICAL ABSOLUTISM WHICH ENCOURAGED THE RACIAL HATRED FROM WHICH EUROPEAN JEWS SUFFERED SO HORRIBLY IN THE YEARS BETWEEN 1933-45; AND THE SECOND, THE REACTION SINCE 1945 WHICH HAS SOUGHT TO INTERNATIONALIZE PROTECTION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS. THOSE TWO FORCES WORKING TOGETHER, ARGUED THE UK DEL, HAVE CREATED INTERNATIONAL CONSENSUS WHICH, THROUGH SUCH PROJECTS AS THE DECADE, HERALDS A NEW DIMENSION OF ACTION AGAINST RACIAL DISCRIMINATION PROVIDED A CONSENSUS CAN BE MAINTAINED. HE THEN SAID,

"IF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ARBITRARILY REDEFINES RACISM AS IT DID IN RESOLUTION 3379, THERE CAN NO UNCLASSIFIED

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LONGER BE ANY SUCH CONSENSUS. NOR IF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY PERMITS PARTISAN QUARRELS TO BE EXPLOITED IN ORDER TO DENIGRATE THE MORAL INTEGRITY OF ANY ONE PARTY TO SUCH A QUARREL, CAN THERE BE ANY SUCH CONSENSUS."

5. YEMEN. IN A LENGTHY STATEMENT YEMEN DEL STRONGLY DENOUNCED ISRAEL AND STRESSED THE "HORRIBLE SPECTACLE" OF THE "UNHOLY ALLIANCE" BETWEEN RACIST REGIMES OF TWO

CONTINENTS--SOUTH AFRICA AND ZIONISM. YEMEN DEL PUT SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON VORSTER VISIT TO ISRAEL CLAIMING THAT THE "NEW RELATIONSHIP" BETWEEN SOUTH AFRICA AND ISRAEL WAS LOGICAL SINCE BOTH REGIMES WERE BASED ON THE THEORY THAT EUROPEANS HAVE THE RIGHT TO DOMINATE OTHERS. YEMEN REAFFIRMED ALL PREVIOUS UN RESOLUTIONS (INCLUDING 3379) AND CALLED FOR PUNITIVE ACTIONS AGAINST "RACIST REGIMES." STATEMENT ALSO SUPPORTED UN'S DEFRAIVING OF HALF "IF NOT ALL" OF COSTS FOR GHANA CONFERENCE.

6. ISRAEL. PERMREP HERZOG'S STATEMENT SENT SEPTTEL.

7. IRAQ. IN VERY HARD STATEMENT IRAQI DEL RECALLED RES 3379 EQUATING ZIONISM WITH RACISM, REFERRED TO "AXIS" OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION BETWEEN ISRAEL AND SOUTH AFRICA (STRESSING VORSTER VISIT). HE ACCUSED THE US ON SPENDING BILLIONS TO SUPPORT ISRAEL'S RACIST REGIME. IRAQI DEL FURTHER ACCUSED US OF PLAYING ELECTION-YEAR POLITICS BY CRITICIZING RACISM IN ONE PART OF THE WORLD (SOUTH AFRICA) WHILE SUPPORTING IT IN ANOTHER (ISRAEL). THAT THE US SHOULD DEFINE ZIONISM AS A NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENT IS, ACCORDING TO THE IRAQI DEL, AN INSULT TO GENUINE NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENTS.

8. PLO. MAIN THRUST OF PLO STATEMENT WAS ATTEMPT TO PROVE THAT ZIONISM WAS CORRECTLY DEFINED IN RES 3379 AS A FORM OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION. PLO DEL MENTIONED RECENT INCIDENTS ON WEST BANK (ACCUSING ISRAEL OF "MISTREATING WOMEN AND YOUNG BOYS AND GIRLS") AND ISRAEL'S LAW OF RETURN, IN PARTICULAR, AS PROOF OF VALIDITY OF ZIONISM AND RACISM EQUATION. PLO DEL UNCLASSIFIED

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HARSHLY CRITICIZED US AS SUPPORTER OF ISRAEL AND DISPUTED CLAIM THAT RES 3379 SERVED TO WEAKEN ABILITY OF DECADE TO ACHIEVE ITS GOALS. HE ALSO CRITICIZED US CHARACTERIZATION OF ZIONISM AS NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENT.

8. AFGHANISTAN AND BOLIVIA ALSO DELIVERED STATEMENTS. BOTH WERE MILD CRITICISMS OF SOUTH AFRICAN AND RHODESIAN REGIMES AND PLEDGES TO SUPPORT DECADE AND ITS ANTI-RACIAL DISCRIMINATION GOALS. NEITHER MENTIONED RES 3379.

9. IN RIGHT OF REPLY TO ISRAELI STATEMENT, SYRIAN DEL DENOUNCED VORSTER VISIT TO ISRAEL INSISTING THAT DEFINING IT AS PILGRIMAGE WAS INSULT TO TRUE PILGRIMS AND THAT SOUTH AFRICAN-ISRAELI RELATIONSHIP

WAS FURTHER PROOF OF VALIDITY OF EQUATION OF ZIONISM
WITH RACISM. HE ALSO CRITICIZED US SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL.

10. GENERAL DEBATE ON THIS ITEM HAS BEEN CONCLUDED.
INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS ARE CONTINUING ON RESOLUTION
TEXTS (ALREADY REPORTED). THESE ARE LIKELY TO BE FORMALLY
INTRODUCED EARLY NEXT WEEK.
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